

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 06997.0027
CUSTOMER NUMBER 22,852

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation-In-Part Application of:)
PCT/GB00/02538)
Inventors: Steven Martin HUDSON et al.) Group Art Unit:
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned) Examiner:
Filed: January 2, 2002)
For: DATA TRANSMISSION IN)
PIPELINE SYSTEMS)

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, please add the following new heading and new paragraph:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Continuation-In-Part of International Patent Application No. PCT/GB00/02538, filed June 30, 2000, which claims priority to Great Britain Patent Application No. 9915968.3, filed July 7, 1999, Great Britain Patent Application No. 9924027.7, filed October 11, 1999, and Great Britain Patent Application No. 0100107.2, filed January 3, 2001.--

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.462.4000
Fax 202.462.4400
www.finnegan.com

REMARKS

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 2, 2002

By: 

Ernest F. Chapman
Reg. No. 25,961

EFC/FPD/peg

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.462.4000
Fax 202.462.4400
www.finnegan.com